

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Jumpstart for Young Children, Inc.

Application ID: 13AC147720

Program Name: Jumpstart California

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

Reviewers' Summary Comments:

(+) The applicant provides persuasive evidence that the identified needs exist in the community. The applicant explains (and cites) the early education childhood gap, which negatively impacts the future of California's high-need learners between the ages of three and five. The applicant links these needs to poverty levels and states that the identified sites must enroll at least 70% low-income children.

(+) The applicant provides documentation of the extent/severity of the need in the target community. For example, in California, the Standardized Testing and Reporting for the 2012 school year demonstrates the sustained impact that low socio-economic status has on reading performance, and that Jumpstart focuses on children from low-income communities who are engaging in far fewer literacy experiences at home and are less likely to master emergent literacy skills.

(+) AmeriCorps members will receive appropriate training on the Jumpstart curriculum from the national, state and local perspective. The AmeriCorps members will read aloud to children in small groups, engaging the children with songs, poems and word play during circle time. The Members will also be observing and joining children in activities that relate to the theme of the week while leading the groups in discussion around the theme of the week. The AmeriCorps members also receive training on roles and responsibilities as an AmeriCorps representative that includes topics on the working poor, rights and civic education, and leadership..

(+) Jumpstart's curriculum is based on the Opening the World of Learning (OWL) preschool curriculum. OWL recognizes the need to provide preschool children with programs that support development in language, phonological awareness, letter knowledge, and social-emotional development.

(+) The program will be delivered to 2,022 children, 1,819 of which are high-need. Of the high-need children that begin the Jumpstart program, 1,454 will complete it and 885 of those children will improve by at least one developmental level in school readiness as measured by the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP). High-need is defined as the children falling into the first three levels (exploring, developing, or building) of the DRDP school-readiness, the levels at which children are considered not school ready.

(+) The Jumpstart School Success Checklist (JSSC), based on the High Scope Educational Research Foundation's Preschool Child Observation Record, will be administered at the beginning, middle, and end of the Jumpstart program year by classroom teachers. The JSSC rates children's skills on a 1-5 scale over 15 items related to promoting early language and literacy. This information is compiled and analyzed by Jumpstart and is used to report data to staff and stakeholders.

(-) There was no data on the economic status of the community, nor was data tied to the need.

(-) It is unclear if any of the requested Members will serve as team leaders; this time commitment would be required in addition to the duties listed for coordinating with the teachers and other AmeriCorps members at each site. These additional duties would include leading the Jumpstart sessions, communicating with families, coaching the other AmeriCorps members, and facilitating preparation.